

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2: 10 p.m. by Paul Shellabarger, P.A. in Conference Room 5A, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of the agenda were sent to the Committee members, media and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered roll call.

Paul Shellabarger, PA (by telephone conference call)
Randy Kohl, MD
Gerald Luckey, MD
Carl Rossitto

Absent: Charles Scholtes, P.A., Chairman

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Also present from the Credentialing Division were Becky Wisell, Section Administrator; Sherri Joyner, Credentialing Specialist; and Michael Grutsch, Program Manager, Investigations Division.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Kohl moved, seconded by Luckey, to approve the agenda with . Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Kohl, Scholtes. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Gerald Luckey, MD, and Carl Rossitto introduced themselves to the rest of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kohl moved, seconded by Luckey, to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2005 Committee meeting. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Physician Assistant Supervisor – Request for Less Than 20% Supervision

The Committee discussed the request from Leon Davis M.D. to supervise Brad Adams, P.A. less than 20% of the time at the Blue Hill Clinic. The Committee discussed whether or not Blue Hill should be considered a secondary site. Shellabarger said that if Blue Hill is a secondary site the required six-week supervisory relationship could be waived because a rural area is being served and because of the experience level of the physician assistant. The Committee delayed its recommendation until clarification was obtained on the following issues: who will be designated as a backup supervisor; how Dr. Davis admits patients to Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital if he only has courtesy privileges; whether the patients seen by the physicians at Blue Hill are all part of the same practice; and the number of years of experience of Brad Adams. After Credentialing Staff obtains this information, the PA Committee will meet by conference call to discuss the application.

The Committee discussed the request from Walter Gardner, MD to supervise David Rhodes, PA less than 20% of the time at the Crete Area Medical Center Emergency Department. The Committee delayed its recommendation until clarification was obtained on the following issues: the specific mechanism for obtaining help in the ER when needs exceed David Rhodes scope of practice; whether there will be backup supervisors; if backup is needed, whether Mr. Rhodes will call the on-call physician directly or go through Dr. Gardner first; the proximity of Dr. Gardner's residence to Crete Area Medical Center; whether Dr. Gardner has privileges at Crete Area Medical Center; and why Dr. Gardner is applying to supervise Mr. Rhodes. After Credentialing Staff obtains this information, the PA Committee will meet by conference call to discuss the application.

Physician Assistant Supervisor – Request to Supervise a Third PA

The Committee discussed the request from Giuseppe Zavadzkas, MD, to supervise a third physician assistant, Maria Elliott, PA. Luckey moved, seconded by Kohl to approve the request to supervise a third physician assistant on the condition that the hours of the physician assistants do not exceed two full-time equivalents. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the request from Ronald Anderson, MD, to supervise James Krahling, PA. Kohl moved, seconded by Luckey to deny the request to supervise a third physician assistant because extenuating circumstances that would warrant the approval were not established. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Becky Wisell informed the Committee of the passage of various bills that affect physician assistant. LB 175 will eliminate the 72-hour limitation on Schedule II controlled substances that physician assistants can prescribe. The change will become effective in September. The Credentialing Division will send a mailing to physician assistants and physician assistant supervisors regarding the change. LB 306 will require criminal background checks for any applicant for an initial license for a profession authorized to prescribe controlled substances. LB 331 will require Nebraska Health and Human Services to establish a central registry for the Cancer Drug Repository Program. LB 382 will allow pharmacies to fill prescriptions with electronic signatures. LB 117, which puts limitations on the sale of pseudoephedrine products, has not yet been signed by the Governor.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Becky Wisell informed the Committee of the All Health Care Related Board Members Meeting on June 10, 2005 at Mahoney State Park. The meeting will focus on the Uniform Licensing Law rewrite. Becky Wisell encouraged Committee members to attend. There will also be meetings of the Nebraska Credentialing Reform organization in August and in October.

The PA Committee will meet on July 27, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

The PA Committee will meet by conference call on June 1, 2005 at 1:00 pm.

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ADJOURNMENT

Rossitto moved, seconded by Luckey, to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Voting aye: Kohl, Luckey, Rossitto, Shellabarger. Voting nay: none. Absent: Scholtes. Motion carried.

Sherri Joyner, Credentialing Coordinator
Recorder